

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is amended to label all of the boxes depicted in the figure.

Attachment: One (1) Annotated Marked Up Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, and 11 are amended to further clarify the invention. Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim to foreign priority and has indicated receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document. The Examiner has returned the initialed form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 10, 2004.

II. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has objected to the drawing and claims 9-11 for minor informalities. Claims 1, 5-7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claims 2-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Fig. 1 for failure to label the boxes depicted in this figure. Fig. 1 has been amended to remedy this minor informality. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection to the drawings.

IV. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claim 9-11 for being in improper form. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections to the claims in view of the self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,898,194 to Vedrine (hereinafter “Vedrine”) and claim 1, 5-7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,889,050 to Willars et al. (hereinafter “Willars”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections in view of at least the following comments.

For example, independent claims 1, 9, and 11, in some variation, recite: supporting the real-time traffic in the GERAN radio access network by allocating dedicated channels to said real time traffic and supporting the real-time traffic in a packet mode in the core network connected to the GERAN radio access network via a Gb interface. The Examiner contends that Vedrine and Willars anticipate the unique features of claims 1 and 9. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Vedrine relates to a fast access to an uplink channel for a mobile station in a packet data radio network. In Vedrine, a number of mobile stations are assigned to a first uplink channel. A mobile station assigned to the first uplink channel transmits in an uplink transmission block real time information. In response to the transmission, a base station reassigns the other mobile stations that are assigned to the first uplink channel and are involved in the communication of real time information in a downlink transmission block immediately following the uplink transmission block. Thereafter, the first mobile station continues transmitting real time information on the first uplink channel. In other words, in Vedrine, the first mobile station transmits the real time information on the first uplink channel, whereas the other mobile stations are assigned to other uplink channels (*see Abstract and col. 3, lines 46 to 65 and col. 6, line 60 to col. 7, line 6*).

Vedrine, however, does not disclose or even remotely suggests supporting real time traffic in the radio access network by allocating dedicated channels to said real time traffic. On the contrary, Vedrine discloses to support real time traffic in the radio access network by allocating shared (common) channels to said real time traffic (col. 3 lines 40 to 42). In other words, Vedrine discloses multiplexing real time users with other users on the same radio channel *i.e.*, this radio channel is not a dedicated channel but a shared channel. Furthermore, the Examiner contends that supporting real traffic in a dedicated channel is disclosed in col. 7, lines 18 to 22 and col. 8, lines 25 to 29 of Vedrine (*see* page 3 of the Office Action). These passages of Vedrine, however, discloses transmission of specific signaling messages “SID” (silence descriptor messages) and are unrelated to traffic support.

Willars relates to improving a connection, which is supported in a radio access network (RAN) between an external network to a UE using a first RAN node and second RAN node. In Willars, the transmission rate from the first RAN node (radio network controller) to the second RAN node (drift radio network controller) is regulated based on a rate control request from the second RAN node. In Willars, the rate control request is made based upon a congestion or load condition being monitored by the second RAN node. When the load condition is detected, the second RAN node requests the first RAN node to lower the transmission rate of information. Conversely, when the load condition is relieved, the second RAN node can request that the first RAN node increase the transmission rate of information. The rate control may be applied in both downlink and uplink directions (*see* Abstract and col. 4, lines 13 to 27).

In Willars, however, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the GERAN radio access network and being connected to GERAN network via a Gb interface. Willars, on the other hand, relates to UMTS system and not GERAN network. In Willars, the Radio Access Network is

called UTRAN and is connected to the core network via an interface called “Iu” (Figs. 1 to 3). In other words, Willars does not disclose or suggest a Gb interface and GERAN network. As explained in the background section of the above-identified application, there are drawback to connecting GERAN to the core network via the same interface as the one used for connecting UTRAN to the core network, *i.e.* “Iu” interface. In short, Willars, the core network being connected to the GERAN radio access network via a Gb interface.

Therefore, “supporting the real-time traffic in the GERAN radio access network by allocating dedicated channels to said real time traffic and supporting the real-time traffic in a packet mode in the core network connected to the GERAN radio access network via a Gb interface,” as set forth in claims 1, 9, and 11 is not disclosed by Vedrine and Willars. For at least these exemplary reasons, claims 1, 9, and 11 are patentably distinguishable from Vedrine and Willars. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these grounds of rejection of claims 1, 9, and 11 and their dependent claims 5-7.

VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,683,860 to Forssell et al. (hereinafter “Forssell”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection in view of the following comments.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 8 depend on claim 1. Applicant has already demonstrated that Willars does not meet all the requirements of independent claim 1. Forssell is relied upon only for its disclosure of setting up packet flows (*see* page 4 of the Office Action) and as such fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Willars. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject

matter of claim 1. Since claims 2-4 and 8 depend on claim 1, they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 27, 2007